

25 September 2023



Dear Calum

Request for Information – Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 (LGOIMA)

Thank you for your information request of 28 August 2023, in which you have asked for *"...a list of all people, animals, groups or teams who have ever been granted the "key(s) to the city" of Lower Hutt."*

Please find attached the following information about nominations for, and conferring of, the Freedom of Lower Hutt City.

Sea Cadet Unit (TS Tamatoa), No. 2 Squadron Air Training Corp and 6th Independent NZ Field Squadron RNZE

The former Petone Borough Council conferred Freedom of the City Charters to the following:

1. Sea Cadet Unit, Training Ship Tamatoa, Petone (30 September 1971)
2. No.2 (Petone) Squadron, Air Training Corps (19 September 1980)
3. 6th Independent NZ Field Squadron RNZE (8 February 1985)

The Charters allowed:

- the title, privilege, honour and distinction of marching through the streets of the Borough of Petone on all ceremonial occasions with drums beating, band playing, colours flying, bayonets fixed, and swords drawn.
- Accept the honour of viewing the Unit once a year for the purpose of an inspection by His Worship the Mayor.
- Accept the further honour of having two Cadets of the said Unit in uniformed attendance upon his Worship the Mayor on all important occasions.

With the dissolution of the former Petone Borough Council, the Freedom of the City Charters conferred by that Council ceased to be valid. At that time, it was for the Lower Hutt City Council to decide if it wished to confer these same privileges to the Units. We can find no records from that period that advise if these Freedoms were conferred on the three units/squadrons by Hutt City Council after the dissolution of the Petone Borough Council.

United States veterans

The Hutt City Council conferred the Freedom of Lower Hutt City on the veterans of the First and Second Divisions of the United States Marine Corps, for the period from 25 June 1992 until 28 June 1992. This was to mark the fiftieth anniversary of the arrival of the First and Second Divisions in New Zealand, to recognise the sacrifice made by men of the divisions and their fellow countrymen for peace in the Pacific between 1942 and 1945.

On 15 April 1993, Hutt City Council conferred the Freedom of Lower Hutt City on the veterans of the 2nd Division of the United States Marine Corps. who were stationed in the Wellington region during World War II, to mark their contribution to the defence of New Zealand during the period 1942 to 1946. The Freedom of the City was for the period of their visit to the region from 22nd April 1993 to 28th April 1993.

Tana Umaga

On 6 August 2007, Hutt City Council granted the Freedom of the City to Tana Umaga, in recognition of his contribution to rugby and work with young people in the city. The Honour was given to Mr Umaga in the form of a certificate.

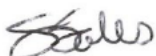
Nominations not granted

In 2004, David Ogden and Roger Styles were nominated by a member of the public to receive the Freedom of the City. These nominations were declined by Hutt City Council.

Please note that this response to your information request, including your name, may be published on the Hutt City Council's website.

You have the right to complain to the Office of the Ombudsman about this response. Details of how to do this are available on the website of the Office of the Ombudsman (www.ombudsmen.parliament.nz).

Kind regards



Susan Sales
Senior Advisor, Official Information and Privacy